TMDL Stakeholder Meeting – San Antonio River Basin

Meeting Summary
September 27, 2002

Meeting Attendees

Gregg Tieken	CPS
Garrett Gelth	STEI-TAMUK
Shai Kai	TAMUK
Javier Guerrero	TAMUK
Sue Calberg	Salado Creek Foundation
John Hall	Medina River Stakeholder
Andy Ernest	TAMUK
Javier Garlin	CH2M Hill
Carrie Balderram	Salado Creek Foundation
Forrest C. Balser	
Mary Jo Balser	
Susan Hughes	
Meg Conner	SAWS
Eric Reese	TNRCC
Linda Brookins	TNRCC
Ken Diehl	SAWS
Kerry Niemann	TNRCC
James R. Smith	CCMA
David Humphrey	CCMA
Steve Whitley	Brooks City – Base
Andrew Riley	Brooks City – Base
Al Weilbacher	WPI
Murray Warner	WPI
Bill Harrison	TNRCC
Andrew Sullivan	TNRCC
John Waugh	SAWS
Tom Van Zandt	Hicks and Company
James Miertschin	James Miertschin and Associates
Wendy Block	Hicks and Company

Meeting Location: San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room
Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 27th, 2002

Meeting began at 4:00 pm. Introduction by Mike Gonzales (SARA)
James Miertschin of James Miertschin and Associates (JMA) introduced the TMDL projects for five study segments:

- 1903 Medina River
- 1910 Salado Creek
- 1910A Walzem Creek

- 1911 Upper San Antonio River
- 1901 Lower San Antonio River

James Miertschin's presentation included the following main points:

- A water body's impairment is based on levels of fecal coliform and e.coli
- Fecal coliform state standards: if geometric mean exceeds 200 colonies/ 100 ml or if sufficient number of samples have more than 400 colonies/ 100 ml, then station is not supporting
- E. coli state standards: if geometric mean exceeds 126 colonies/ 100 ml, or if sufficient number of samples have more than 394 colonies/ 100 ml, then station is not supporting
- It only takes one 'not supporting' monitoring station for the entire segment (or 25 miles of a segment) to be considered impaired

Medina River

- E. coli – not supporting
- Fecal coliform – 1 station out of 5 not supporting
- Monitoring plan includes 10 stations to be monitored at monthly intervals
- Focus of additional data will be e.coli since there is a shortage of data, and that is the new official parameter for monitoring water bodies.
- Additional testing will confirm whether Medina River is impaired

Salado Creek

- Dissolved Oxygen TMDL was completed last year
- E.coli: 9 stations not supporting
- Fecal coliform: 12 stations not supporting
- Lower 24 miles of Salado Creek were not supporting
- Upper stations (above 410) are dry most of the time
- Needs more sampling to confirm impairment
- Data is expected to show continued impairment
- Monitoring plan includes monthly surveying

Upper San Antonio River

- E.coli: 1 station not supporting, 3 with a primary concern (not enough data for stations to be officially not supporting)
- Most impairment is within San Antonio
- Fecal coliform: 9 stations not supporting
- Need more sampling to confirm impairment
- Monitoring plan includes 6 monthly surveys

Lower San Antonio River

- E.coli: 3 stations not supporting
- Fecal coliform: 3 stations not supporting
- Recommend a limited scope of study because SARA is going to do a comprehensive survey

Next steps include Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), sampling to being in September or October. Continued public participation as sampling moves forwards. The pollution is likely not a point source situation.

Questions and Answers

Q: (Sue Calberg) With regard to Salado Creek, you said that there would be 6 monthly surveys. Where will the sampling take place?
A: JMA mailing her a copy of the monitoring plan

Q: (Sue Calberg) Why is Austin highway (Salado Creek) so different from other stations?
A: JMA does not know why. He suspects a leaking sewer line, a horse stable, birds, etc, but it would need an event (such as a storm) to push it into the stream. If they could prove that it was all birds or something else that is completely natural, they perhaps we could ultimately develop a site specific standard. These type of tests (to determine if it's birds, for instance) are not an integral component of the study. We proposed to do this type of testing in our original scope, but budgetary constraints at the TNRCC led to its removal from our study. TNRCC does plan a separate contract with another entity that will conduct this type of testing, but we are not sure if results will be available for this study.

Q: Why are there not stations between Highway 72 and Conquista (Lower San Antonio River)?
A: SARA has stations in that reach and JMA has stations in there for base flow

Q: There is a fishfarm in there. On Conquista Creek, there's an old Conoco disposal pit (radioactive material) and it could be leaking into the creek and then into the San Antonio River. Also, hospital waste used to be dumped in there.
A: (Kerry Niemann, TNRCC) You can report pollution violations to the regional TNRCC office and they will follow up.

Q: (Sue Calberg) If you sample (Salado Creek) during a storm event, is that the same as a non-steady event?
A: Yes. We try to sample during a runoff event. We want some runoff data.